

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for forming a mark comprising the steps of:  
forming plural plating layers on a base;  
removing the upper plating layer by laser marking; and  
thereby revealing the color of the lower plating layer so as to display a colored mark;

wherein the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is made clear.

10 2. A method for forming a mark comprising the steps of:  
forming plural plating layers on a base, said layers being comprised of a combination of a nickel plating layer and a chromium plating layer formed thereon, said nickel plating layer having a thickness of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  or more and said chromium layer having a thickness of around 0.01 to 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

15 removing the upper chromium plating layer and the lower nickel plating layer at most to an extent within the thickness of the lower nickel plating layer by laser marking; and

thereby forming a mark having a nickel color;

20 wherein the color difference between said upper chromium plating layer and said mark is made clear.

3. A method for forming a mark comprising the steps of:

forming plural plating layers on a base, said layers being comprised of the combination of a nickel plating layer and a chromium plating layer formed thereon, said nickel plating layer having a thickness of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  or more and said chromium layer having a thickness of around 0.01 to 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

25 forming a vacuum plating layer of titanium nitride or zirconium nitride having a thickness of around 0.01 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  on said plural plating layers by a PVD method;

removing the surface vacuum plating layer, the chromium plating layer and the nickel plating layer at most to an extent within the thickness of the nickel plating layer by laser marking; and

thereby forming a mark having a nickel color;

5 wherein the color difference between said surface vacuum plating layer and said mark is made clear.

4. A method for forming a mark according to claim 2 or 3, wherein black nickel or an alloy of tin and nickel is used for the nickel plating layer, black chromium, an 10 alloy of tin and cobalt, or gold is used for the chromium plating layer, and the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is freely varied depending on the combination.

5. A method for forming a mark comprising the steps of:

15 forming plural plating layers on a base;

removing the upper plating layer by laser marking; and

applying another plating layer to a mark portion so as to form a mark;

wherein the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is made clear.

6. A method for forming a mark comprising the steps of:

forming plural plating layers on a base, said layers being comprised of the combination of a nickel plating layer and a chromium plating layer formed thereon, said nickel plating layer having a thickness of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  or more and said chromium layer 25 having a thickness of around 0.01 to 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

removing the upper chromium plating layer and the lower nickel plating layer at most to an extent within the thickness of the lower nickel plating layer by laser marking; and

applying another plating layer to a mark portion so as to form a mark;

wherein the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is made clear.

7. A method for forming a mark according to claim 6, wherein gold, silver, copper, black nickel, black chromium or an alloy of tin and nickel is used for the plating layer applied to the mark portion, the plating layer having a thickness of 0.01 to 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , whereby the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is made clear.
- 10 8. A method for forming a mark comprising the steps of:  
forming plating layers on a base;  
providing a concave portion or concavo-convex portions on the surface of  
said plating layers by laser marking; and  
coloring said concave portion or concavo-convex portions with ink or paint.
- 15 9. A method for forming a mark comprising the steps of:  
forming plating layers on a base;  
forming a mask on the surface of said plating layers;  
providing a concave portion or concavo-convex portions on the surface of  
20 said plating layers by laser marking which penetrates the mask;  
applying a color thereto with ink or paint; and  
removing the mask;  
whereby a colored mark is obtained without bleeding of ink or paint.
- 25 10. A method for forming a mark according to claim 9, wherein metal such as aluminum, stainless steel, nickel or silver, resin such as vinyl chloride resin, polyester or acrylic resin, paper such as Japanese paper or western paper, or other material which can form a mask which laser processing penetrates so as to provide a concave portion or concavo-convex portions on the plating layers is used as the material of the

mask, and the mask is obtained by forming the mask material into a film-like shape, applying adhesive such as acrylic resin or epoxy thereto, and forming into a sheet-like or tape-like shape having a thickness of around 0.01 to 0.1 mm.

- 5        11.      A method for forming a mark according to claim 10, wherein resist ink or  
paint which is soluble with respect to an aqueous or alkali solution is used in the case  
where the mask material is resin.

10       12.      A method for forming a mark according to claim 8, wherein pouring of ink or  
paint or printing of the same shape as the concave portion or concavo-convex portions  
is selected as the coloring method depending on the depth of the concave portion or  
concavo-convex portions.

15       13.      A method for forming a mark according to claim 9, wherein pouring of ink or  
paint, printing of the same shape as the concave portion or concavo-convex portions,  
brush painting or solid printing is selected as the coloring method depending on the  
depth of the concave portion or concavo-convex portions.

20       14.      A faucet product in which a mark having a desired letter or picture is formed  
by a method according to any one of claim 1 to 13.